

**Weekly Bureau of In-formation for All Who Till the Soil or Are In-terested in Making Homes**

# **AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT**

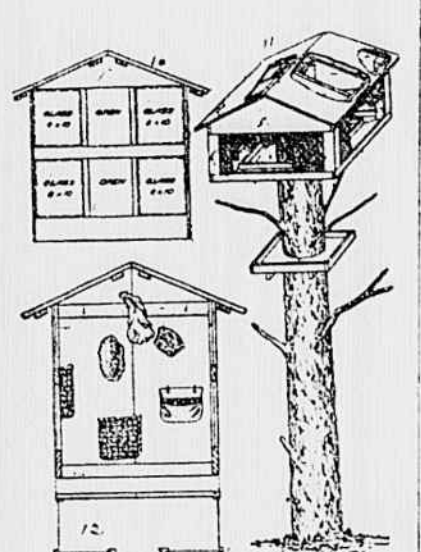
All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

**Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners--Queries and Answers**

## **MAKE EFFORT TO ATTRACT THE GOOD BIRD FRIENDS**

Cats and large snakes are enemies of birds, the former perhaps killing more birds than any other animal. Trees and poles supporting houses should be sheathed with tin or galvanized iron to prevent these enemies from climbing to the nests. Squirrels give more or less trouble by gnawing houses, eating eggs, and killing nestlings. Red squirrels, in particular, have a very bad reputation in this respect, and many experimenters keep their grounds free from them. Some regard flying squirrels as but little better than red ones. Even gray and fox squirrels are occasionally troublesome. It is not necessary, however, that bird lovers should wage indiscriminate warfare against all squirrels. It is far better to adopt the rule never to kill a squirrel unless there is reason to believe that it has acquired the habit of eating young birds; the result will probably be that not more than one red squirrel in fifty nor more than one gray squirrel in a hundred will have to be killed. Where squirrels are numerous they give more or less trouble by gnawing and disfiguring houses. This damage may be prevented, however, by covering the parts about the entrance with tin or zinc.

Another means of attracting birds about human habitations is to furnish an abundance of food, preferably in food shelters. If one is unable to make shelters that will protect food in all kinds of weather, the food may be fastened to trunks or branches of trees.



**FOOD SHELTER.**  
No. 10, Side View of Food Shelter, No. 11, Food Shelter Set on Top of Post, No. 12, Food Shelter Interior, Showing Suet Baskets.

trees or scattered in sheltered places on the ground. A decided advantage in having shelters, aside from that of protecting food, is that they may be placed where the birds can be watched conveniently. When shelters are used the birds are first baited by placing food, such as suet, seeds, or cracked nuts, in a conspicuous place, and then led by degrees to enter the inclosure.

Before erecting bird houses one should first determine the kind of birds to which his services are wanted. The question usually next arising is as to the number of birds that can be accommodated. Unless grounds are large, it is generally useless to expect as tenants more than a pair of each species, except martins. However, the singular intolerance shown by most birds during the breeding season to others of their kind does not operate between those of different species. A dozen different kinds of birds will pursue their several modes of hunting and raise their families on the same lot, but rare-ly more than two of all our common birds are social. The fact that there is a limit to the possible bird population on any given tract must be taken into consideration. When the probable tenants have been decided upon, the selection of sites is in order, for the site often decides the style of house that is to occupy it. In the final placing of birdhouses, care should be taken to have them face away from the wind, and to avoid stormy weather. The strongest develop- ing homing instincts of birds can be relied on to attract them to the neigh- borhood where they first saw the light, and the identical pairs that nest in the houses provided for them will often return the next season to enjoy the same bounty and protection.

## **FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

In the current issue of Farm and Fireside, the national farm paper, pub- lished at Springfield, Ohio, Judson C. Oliver, Washington correspondent of that publication, writes an article in which he gives the following interest- ing facts about the foot-and-mouth disease:

"If you watch your stock carefully it will not be hard to note the symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease. Cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, are liable to it. Watch an animal that slobbers or drools.

"If that animal begins smacking the lips, loses appetite for food, and pre- sently perhaps develops sores between the toes, don't wait an hour. Get a skilled veterinarian.

"Also report your suspicions to the nearest agent of the Agricultural De- partment.

"Cattle with this disease don't com- monly die of it. Commonly it would be to the farmer's profit if they did. Let alone they will linger through a useless existence. The milk falls in quantity, gets thin. Even after ex- ternal symptoms disappear, the animal is probably infected with the disease, and may develop a new case or trans- mit it to others. Nothing is more con- tagious. Animals once infected often are they are full of the germs, and they can communicate the disease very widely, though themselves not suffer- ing, apparently from the effects.

"If the disease is in your neigh- borhood, kill every pig on the place.

"And also, so far as possible, every rat.

"Both pigeons and rats are great carriers of the disease.

"There is no specific remedy for the foot-and-mouth disease. Since the disease has never been killed, it has never been possible to find a cure or preventive, and the public may be quite certain that any one who says that he is an employee of the Depart- ment of Agriculture, and that he has time attempts to sell or even repre- sent anything of the sort, is simply an impostor.

**Dry-Cured Hams.**  
For 100 pounds of meat take four pounds of fine salt, four ounces of sal- mon, and one pound of brown sugar; mix well, and rub the ham with the mixture every other day until all is absorbed.

## **BRIEF NOTES THOUGHT OUT BY THE WAYSIDE**

Poultry and fruit make a good com- bination to raise.

Hiccoughing in the pigs is caused by a derangement of the stomach.

Sunlight is a tonic for poultry, pigs and cattle.

Safety, economy and utility are con- sidered in a concrete silo.

Roup is caused by exposure to cold or drafts, by dampness or filthy quar- ters.

Soundness should be the basis in the selection of a draft stallion.

A poultry-yard on a southern slope dries off quickly after a rain.

Don't neglect to introduce new blood into your flock this spring by a change of cock.

Keep the brood mare working mod- erately nearly up to the time of foal- ing.

Turnips, beets and mangels should be cut in halves and fed to the poultry during the winter months.

Get a reliable veterinarian to examine the grinders of your old horses and mules, and to flat them if necessary. You will save feed and, therefore, money by so doing.

It is said that a hog fed exclusively on corn will starve to death in about 120 days, but no wise farmer is in danger of making the experiment.

A horse with a good disposition, built on good, clean legs, with ample depth of chest and middle, will keep in good condition on less feed than one of the opposite type.

Clean, bright clover-hay makes the best roughage for the horses, in my opinion, but this may be varied by any other roughage as can be ob- tained, if it is sound and free from mold or dust.

When possible to avoid it, never give a full draught of water within an hour after feeding the horse. This effect is to carry much undigested food into the bowels, producing serious disor- ganization thereof.

Pure-bred sheep should be kept, be- cause they have been bred to a cer- tain purpose, but the veriest scrub ewe crossed on a pure-bred ram will bring lambs that are a great improvement.

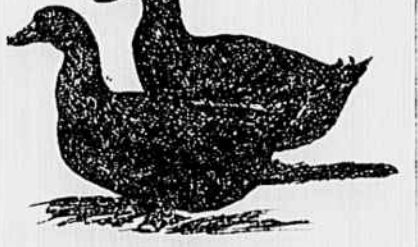
## **POPULAR BREED OF DUCKS**

The black Cayuga is distinctly an American duck, having been bred so long in this country that all trace of its origin is lost. It is said that it was first found in the central part of New York on Cayuga Lake. By some it is supposed to have originally come from the wild black duck. For many years the Cayuga has been raised in this country, and has been considered a profitable duck to keep.

By some raisers it is thought to be as good as the Pekin for early markets, and the claim is made that it can be grown as cheaply. The farmer who desires a good, practical duck to raise on his farm in conjunction with other poultry will do well to give this valuable bird a good "try-out."

More than can be spent in dressing it for market than is generally given to the dressing of white-plumage birds, but the profits will be proportionately as great. Duck raisers, like broiler raisers, are partial to white feathers for market fowls, but those who do not look with this partiality on the white varieties will find an excellent choice in the Cayuga duck.

Cayugas are splendid birds for a re- stricted range, and breed well in confinement. They are quiet, docile, and form a strong attachment for their home, evincing no inclination or de- sire to stray far away from the place where they are kept. They are hardy and prolific, producing from eighty to ninety eggs in the spring, and some- times they also lay again in the autumn. They are easily kept in good condition, but if fed too liberally, they will fatten too quickly, and will be- come too heavy to raise, and attain good size and weight at an early age.



Pair of Black Cayuga Ducks.

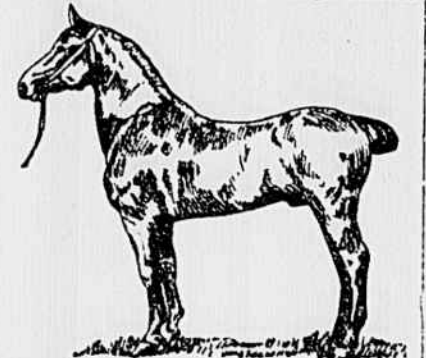
Duck runs should be disinfected at least once a year. This is best done by growing a green crop in it while the ducks are kept, and then plowing it. There is very little danger of overfattenning the laying duck. Steamed or cooked corn clover hay is a good substitute for green food in the winter.

**Water Glass for Eggs.**  
Lime water has, for a century or more, been used in many private fam- ilies as an egg preservative, but water glass is far better. It has been com- pletely proved that eggs preserved in this way, even after six months' storage, are as nearly equal to a "new laid" as a preserved egg can be. Eggs thus preserved are apt to be attacked by a limey flavor, and are only useful for kitchen purposes. I can speak personally as to the efficacy of water glass, for I preserved in one season two nine-gallon barrels of eggs with splendid results. These eggs proved as good and sound as when they were stored six months before.—W. R. G.

**Low-Headed Trees.**  
In a low-headed, well-trained, and pruned tree we have all the essentials for a profitable one, other things being kept in line. Water is a tree that is easily managed in regard to pruning, spraying, thinning, and picking. Good labor for doing these things is always at a premium, and it goes without saying that the amount of time it takes for such an orchard to bear is for a high-headed one. In the second place it is a well-known fact that low-headed trees are far less subject to sun scald than high-headed ones, and the third reason is that when orchard heaters are used the low-headed trees receive more benefit than the high ones. —S. S. Herriek.

## **SIZE FOR FARM HORSE**

Neither the massive drafter nor the diminutive pony are where the average farmer needs. Being an average man he wants a medium-sized horse, one that will do farm and road work com- bined, one that will draw a plow, harrow or wagon, or possibly a car- riage or buggy, for the average farmer.



these days goes to church, pays some social visits and likewise goes to the country town, or to a house or post-off- ice pretty regularly.

An 1,800 or 2,000-pound drafter won't fill the bill for these varied require- ments; neither will a 700 or 800-pound scrub.

The average farmer wants something between and between, as the saying is, I should say from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds. I want well built with some snap and spirit, one that the owner or the hired man will hold the reins over with a feeling of pride and pleasure. Let the large manufacturing concerns in the city use the huge affairs.

I knew a team of 1,100-pound horses some years ago. One man drove them consecutively for nine years hauling cordwood in the summer and fall months. Both of these horses were by sires who had a liberal strain of thor- oughbred blood in their veins.

They did farm work regularly until corn was laid by, then they were put into harness and driven. They were never known to get stalled, but once in nine years, and they were never driven with a whip.

More than five years of age each they were serviceably sound and were full of life.

Think of it! Twenty-one years of hard regular service and still able to carry their own weight, and besides, had been well taken care of all their lives.

I know a young farmer this year who is starting out, and who bought a heavy, awkward drafter and also a 1,000-pound mare of good breeding. He worked the mare in the team with the other big fellows, and whenever he had occasion to take a trip in his buggy, always drove the mare, letting the others rest, still she held her own and kept in good order.

Two men have been written and said advising the average farmer to use heavy drafters. Let him sell them at big prices and use a more medium-sized horse on the farm.

One year's experience will show him that he is right.—J. M. R.

## **Fire-Proof Wood.**

To make wood fire-proof, slake a small quantity of fresh lime and add water until it has the consistency of cream, stir well and add one pound of alum, twelve ounces of commercial pot- ash, and about one pound of salt. Stir again, and apply while hot. Two or three coats will keep wood fire-proof for many months.

## **Intensive and Colony Systems.**

There are two popular ways in which to raise poultry, the "intensive sys- tem" and the "colony system." The first of these aims to save steps, and ac- complishes this purpose. Long station- ary houses are used. It is easier, how- ever, to keep the fowls healthy and to reproduce the stock under the second system.

Under the colony system, the birds are allowed free range, the houses, which hold about a dozen birds each, being placed from 200 to 250 feet apart, so that the stock will not kill the grass. This system may be adapted to severe winter conditions by drawing the colony houses together in convenient place at the beginning of winter, thus reducing the labor during the cold months. The first system is more suit- able for hens used solely for the produc- tion of market eggs than for those used to breed stock.

## **Go Slow at First.**

The beginner who has had no ex- perience with poultry is usually an enthusiast, and aims to do too much in a short time. No one should ex- pend a sum of money without at least fully understanding the objects in view and how to accomplish them. The beginner should begin with a few fowls, using pure breeds, carefully not- ing all mistakes made. At the end of the year he may find that he has failed to make a profit, but he will have gained knowledge that will prove valuable in the future.

**Test Your Cows.**  
A few of the many reasons for cow- testing are:

It enables the farmer to eliminate cows that do not pay for their board. It saves many a good cow from the slaughter.

It is an encourager of good feeding and good care.

It gives the farmer an opportunity to build up a good producing herd. It increases one's interest in dairying as a business rather than as a means of labor merely.

In short, it is plain common sense.

## **Early Cure of Breeders.**

In selecting breeding sows, I prefer to select the pigs from fall litters as they arrive at the age that I prefer to have my sows when they drop their first litter and when allowed to obtain a large part of their growth and de- velopment on pasture and forage crop the following summer they arrive at the very best period of development to breed for litters early the next spring.

I aim to select large, roomy sows with good length of body and good neat and short heads, wide between the eyes, medium bone and large heart girth with well sprung ribs and a well-developed set of vital organs—con- sequently, a vigorous and largely econ- omical sow that comes from prolific families are more certain to inherit those qualities and become good moth- ers than those that descend from fam- ilies that are less than good.

**The Poultry House Site.**  
Poultry houses may be built more open and consequently less expensively in our Southern States than in the North, according to investigators of the United States Department of Agri- culture. However, a house which gives satisfaction in Maine will also give good results in Texas or California. The site for a poultry house in any location is one where good water and air drainage are available. The floor and yards will then be dry. The

house should not occupy a low hollow in which cold air settles. Wherever possible, Southern or Southeastern exposure should be selected, although this is not essential if there is any good reason for facing the house in a different direction.

## **Vine Pruning in the South.**

In the South the only time to prune the ordinary grapes is just before growth starts in the spring. Then the leaves will soon stop the bleeding. One spring in North Carolina the weather turned hot the extreme of March and the vines that had been pruned in the fall made shoots six inches long while those that had not been pruned hardly swelled the buds.

The last week in the month the mer- cury suddenly fell with a norther to 29 degrees above zero and the shoots on the pruned vines were frozen. After the freeze I pruned my grapes and had a normal growth while those around me hardly got half a crop. I had learned this from seasons years before, when I had seen the same thing. But the Scuppernon vines, pruned in November or December, as it seems, were worse than the cluster grapes.—S. C. B.

## **The Country Beautiful.**

"Believing in the gospel of good things, I pledge myself to beautify and keep beautiful the landscape from my upper window. The four sides of my habitation shall be without offense to the sense of my neighbor or the stranger within my sight. The way before my door, my neighbors' door, and the thoroughfare of trade, I will not abuse or put to unworthy use. In every way consistent with my station and citizenship, I will encourage tidiness by word and example. I will help to make the country beautiful."

## **Silage.**

Feeding the silage tends to relax the cow's system like grass in the summer time; therefore, she is more susceptible to the disease known as cold than the cows that are kept ex- clusively on dry fodder, and they should not be exposed to chilly winds, but kept warm and comfortable.

## **Co-Operation.**

Co-operation is naturally suggested, and I believe in it. The principle is all right, and we will get to it after a while, but we need to do something individually. Successful farmers often owe their progress to their custom of co-operation with their neighbors. They readily in their nearest town to private customers. A variety of produce, including poultry, eggs, butter and vegetables, ought to be so handled as to give a weekly income, and those who do this, and who have a few heavy, awkward drafters and also a 1,000-pound mare of good breeding. He worked the mare in the team with the other big fellows, and whenever he had occasion to take a trip in his buggy, always drove the mare, letting the others rest, still she held her own and kept in good order.

Two men have been written and said advising the average farmer to use heavy drafters. Let him sell them at big prices and use a more medium-sized horse on the farm.

## **Paint Adds to Appearance.**

All buildings are greatly improved, both in appearance and in serviceability by the addition of paint. Paint should be applied before they are painted. Use a priming coat made of equal parts of paint and linseed oil and cover with one or more coats of paint, which should be thoroughly rubbed into the surface.

## **Helps for the Farmer's Wife.**

An excellent gargle for a sore throat, especially if of a catarrhal nature, is glycerine, one part; alcohol, two parts; water, three parts. If the water is used when warm the mixture will be found very soothing.

Hair brushes should be kept perfect- ly clean and frequently washed in am- monia and soda water.

Lace curtains are more artistic when

## **F. F. V. POULTRY FARM**

Breeders of Exhibition S. C. White Leghorns have exhibited at Hagertown, Washington, Washington and Richmond, and received four silver cups for best display of S. C. White Leghorns. Eight first, eight second, and many other specials, all of which were won this season. Eggs from our best pens, \$5.00. Utility pens, \$1.50, or \$10.00 per hun- dred, shipped to the F. F. V. POULTRY FARM, Meadow and Broad Streets, Richmond, Va.

## **Burpee's Seeds Grow**

and are supplied every year direct to more American planters than are the seeds of any other growers.

## **Burpee's Annual for 1915**

The Leading American Seed Catalog, is a bright book of 182 pages, beautifully illustrated, and a safe guide to success in the garden. It is mailed free. Write today. A postcard will do.

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO., Seed Growers,

Burpee Buildings Philadelphia, Pa.

## **Thousands**

Of men and women keep more than one bank account.

We want the reader to keep one here.

So far as we know every person who has an account with the Virginia Trust Co. likes our way.

Come along and open one.

3% allowed on personal and savings ac- counts, subject to check in the usual way.

## **Virginia Trust Co.**

1106 East Main Street.

RICHMOND, VA.

## **CONDITIONS POINT TO HIGHER PRICES**

**Most Conservative Men in Wheat Mar- ket Expect Grain to Reach Greater Figure.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHICAGO, January 31.—While a temporary halt has been called in the price upturn in wheat, conditions point to further advances. Some of the most conservative men in the wheat trade at Chicago and elsewhere make the claim that the feeling at the present time, with wheat hovering around the \$1.50 level, is stronger and the ten- dency to higher prices more pronounced than when the May future was 20 cents lower than it is now. When the fact is considered that the State of Kansas now has only 39,000,000 bushels of wheat on the farms, and that the smaller growers of the Southwest have reduced their stocks greatly, the situa- tion may be called abnormally strong.—

In fact, stronger than at any time on the present crop. While it is true that Argentina has an exportable surplus of around 30,000,000 bushels, it seems that the weather there has been against the threshing and movement of this grain, and that a great deal of it has been more or less injured by recent torren- tial rains.

## **Fire-Proof Wood.**

To make wood fire-proof, slake a small quantity of fresh lime and add water until it has the consistency of cream, stir well and add one pound of alum, twelve ounces of commercial pot- ash and about one pound of salt. Stir again and apply while hot. Two or three coats will keep wood fire-proof for many months.

## **Notes on Duck Raising.**

The drinking vessels should be deep enough so that the duck or duckling can get its head in the water.

In driving ducks, go slowly, as they are weak in the legs and cannot stand undue excitement.

Ducks allowed bathing are not so apt to overfatten on account of the exer- cise they take in the water.

Allow no excitement about the duck runs, as both ducks and young are of a nervous disposition and easily fright- ened.

## **Weekly Cotton Review.**

NEW ORLEANS, January 31.—Last week marked small gains and recess- ions in cotton, prices working higher on a good spot demand and a continued large export movement and falling un- der heavy short selling, stimulated by the belief on the bear side that a re- action was overdue. The market was more responsive to buying than to sell- ing, and at no time were prices under last week's close. They were as high as 39 to 31 points over last week's finals, while the close was at a net gain of 19 points.

The export movement for the week brought the total for the month up to approximately 1,250,000 bales, the largest month of last year. The ship- ments of the week were 275,872 bales, against 255,664 bales the same week last year. Bulls predict large ship- ments during February.

## **Wood's Seed Oats**

are all choice, reselected stocks, much superior to oats as ordinarily sold.

Oats are one of the crops that promise profitable re- turns. For best crop results, sow as early as practicable.

Write for "WOOD'S CROP SPECIAL," giving prices and special information a- bout the most profitable crops to plant at this season of the year. Mailed on re- quest.

T. W. WOOD & SONS,

SEEDSMEN, - Richmond, Va.

Wood's Descriptive Catalog

for 1915, telling about all Farm and Garden Seeds, free on request. Write for it.

**Burpee's Seeds Grow**

and are supplied every year direct to more American planters than are the seeds of any other growers.

**Burpee's Annual for 1915**

The Leading American Seed Catalog, is a bright book of 182 pages, beautifully illustrated, and a safe guide to success in the garden. It is mailed free. Write today. A postcard will do.

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO., Seed Growers, Burpee Buildings Philadelphia, Pa.

**Thousands**

Of men and women keep more than one bank account.

We want the reader to keep one here.

So far as we know every person who has an account with the Virginia Trust Co. likes our way.

Come along and open one.

3% allowed on personal and savings ac- counts, subject to check in the usual way.

**Virginia Trust Co.**

1106 East Main Street.

RICHMOND, VA.

## **CONDITIONS POINT TO HIGHER PRICES**

**Most Conservative Men in Wheat Mar- ket Expect Grain to Reach Greater Figure.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHICAGO, January 31.—While a temporary halt has been called in the price upturn in wheat, conditions point to further advances. Some of the most conservative men in the wheat trade at Chicago and elsewhere make the claim that the feeling at the present time, with wheat hovering around the \$1.50 level, is stronger and the ten- dency to higher prices more pronounced than when the May future was 20 cents lower than it is now. When the fact is considered that the State of Kansas now has only 39,000,000 bushels of wheat on the farms, and that the smaller growers of the Southwest have reduced their stocks greatly, the situa- tion may be called abnormally strong.—

In fact, stronger than at any time on the present crop. While it is true that Argentina has an exportable surplus of around 30,000,000 bushels, it seems that the weather there has been against the threshing and movement of this grain, and that a great deal of it has been more or less injured by recent torren- tial rains.

## **Fire-Proof Wood.**

To make wood fire-proof, slake a small quantity of fresh lime and add water until it has the consistency of cream, stir well and add one pound of alum, twelve ounces of commercial pot- ash and about one pound of salt. Stir again and apply while hot. Two or three coats will keep wood fire-proof for many months.

## **Notes on Duck Raising.**

The drinking vessels should be deep enough so that the duck or duckling can get its head in the water.

In driving ducks, go slowly, as they are weak in the legs and cannot stand undue excitement.

Ducks allowed bathing are not so apt to overfatten on account of the exer- cise they take in the water.

## **Weekly Cotton Review.**

NEW ORLEANS, January 31.—Last week marked small gains and recess- ions in cotton, prices working higher on a good spot demand and a continued large export movement and falling un- der heavy short selling, stimulated by the belief on the bear side that a re- action was overdue. The market was more responsive to buying than to sell- ing, and at no time were prices under last week's close. They were as high as 39 to 31 points over last week's finals, while the close was at a net gain of 19 points.

The export movement for the week brought the total for the month up to approximately 1,250,000 bales, the largest month of last year. The ship- ments of the week were 275,872 bales, against 255,664 bales the same week last year. Bulls predict large ship- ments during February.

## **Wood's Seed Oats**

are all choice, reselected stocks, much superior to oats as ordinarily sold.

Oats are one of the crops that promise profitable re- turns. For best crop results, sow as early as practicable.

Write for "WOOD'S CROP SPECIAL," giving prices and special information a- bout the most profitable crops to plant at this season of the year. Mailed on re- quest.